

Nature & You

News and Events from the Missouri Department of Conservation • January/February 2014



You know the feeling. Indoor air begins to feel a bit stuffy. Television seems stale. A computer screen begins to seem too familiar. Your smart phone doesn't seem wise.

What you need is a dose of the outdoors. The Missouri Department of Conservation provides various cabin fever cures from splashing rainbow trout to trails that are quiet and still on a snowy day.

MDC stocks rainbow trout for a winter fishing program in lakes at the **James A. Reed Wildlife Area** in Lee's Summit, at the Fountain Bluffs Sports Complex in Liberty and at Chaumiere Lake in the Kansas City park system in the Northland, near Interstate 35 and the intersection of North Cleveland Avenue and Northeast 43rd Terrace. The trout stocking program begins in November and some lakes get more fish throughout the winter. Check the winter trout fishing hotline for stocking updates, **816-525-0300, ext. 4001**.

Rainbow trout are not native to Kansas City area waters. They can't survive summer's warm water temperatures. But in winter, the stocked trout provide additional fishing opportunities for metro area anglers.

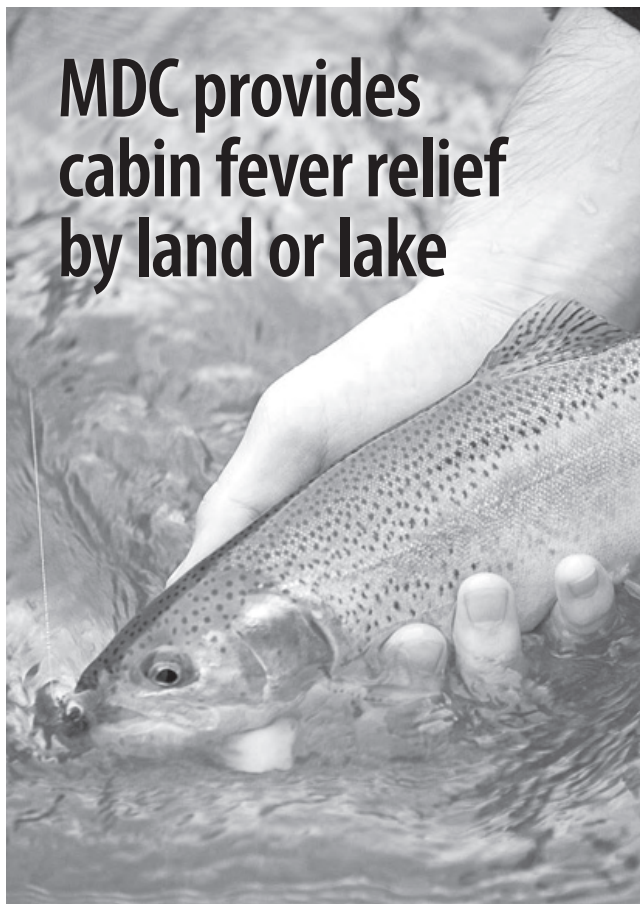
The trout can be caught using fly rods, spin casting or spinning gear. Artificial flies, prepared scent baits or lures like spinners bring success.

Statewide trout fishing regulations apply. All Missouri residents between the ages of 16 and 64 must have a valid fishing permit, and all non-residents over age 15 must have a fishing permit. The daily limit is four trout. To keep trout, all anglers must have a Missouri trout permit.

Winter is also a fine hiking time. The woods are more open and reveal terrain and interesting tree patterns. There are no insects to bug you but spotting wildlife may be easier without foliage.

Burr Oak Woods Nature Center

MDC provides cabin fever relief by land or lake



and Conservation Area has some of the finest trails for hiking in the metro area. The Bethany Falls Trail with limestone outcrops is especially lovely. The area also has a scenic trail winding through woods and near creeks that is paved and easily traversed by those who use wheelchairs.

A sleeper on the trails list is the **Parma Woods Shooting Range**. Beyond the range are safe hiking trails that loop up and down on the loess soil bluffs bordering the Missouri River Valley. Be prepared to go uphill and down.

The short loops in the outdoor garden classroom at the **Anita B. Gorman Discovery Center** are worth a walk if you're in the heart of the city. Winter changes textures on the garden's native plants. While there check out the Discovery

Center's new pond, too.

Winter is also the season for making maple sugar. As winter loses its grip on the land, the trees begin to awaken. Sap from deep in the roots starts to make its way to the treetops. February is prime time for tapping maple trees to collect the sweet bounty within. The Discovery Center staff on Saturday, Feb. 15, from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. will demonstrate how to choose the right tree, collect the raw sap and use equipment to boil sap into maple syrup or sugar.

Burr Oak Woods staff will teach maple sugaring on Saturday, March 1, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Of course, let it snow.

Wildlife and plants need winter moisture. We love to go sledding.

Lake City Shooting Range offers sledding on snowy days on "Winchester Hill" just inside the range entrance off Truman Road. Also nearby is Jackson County's Landahl Park that has two major hills long popular for sledding. The park's "Sled Hill" is east of the Jackson County maintenance building also off Truman Road.

MDC offers many other ways to shake the winter doldrums. Go to **www.mdc.mo.gov** for more information.

Be sure and check at the Conservation Areas listings found on the right hand side of the home page.

We connect nature with you, a sure cure for the winter blahs.

—Bill Graham, Media Specialist

Burr Oak Woods Conservation Nature Center

1401 NW Park Road, Blue Springs, MO 64015 • mdc.mo.gov/node/280



Located in Blue Springs, Missouri, one mile north of I-70 and one mile west of MO 7 on Park Road. Six trails, 1,071 wooded acres, two picnic areas, indoor wildlife viewing area, 3,000 gallon native fish and turtle aquarium, hands-on nature exhibits, gift shop, and sales of fishing and hunting permits.

NATURE CENTER HOURS:

Tuesday–Friday: 7 AM–6 PM

Saturday: 8 AM–5 PM

AREA AND TRAILS:

Daily: 7 AM–6 PM

Daylight Saving Time: 7 AM–8 PM

Closed Thanksgiving Day, day after Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years

TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:

Programs are free. Call 816-228-3766 to sign up for a program requiring registration on or after the first business day of that month. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy.

What's for Dinner?

Wednesdays & Saturdays • 3 PM

Walk-in (all ages)

Discover what's for dinner at Burr Oak Woods as the captive amphibians, fish and turtles enjoy their feast every Wednesday and Saturday. The snakes are fed every other Friday (Jan. 10 & 24 and Feb. 7 & 21).

Making Tracks

January 4 • Saturday • 12:30–2 PM

Registration required beginning December 27 (adults & families with children ages 6+) Every single element of our surroundings has something to tell us. Learn the basics of tracking animals and bring a t-shirt to paint using realistic wildlife stamps.

Little Acorns: Nutty for Squirrels

January 8 • Wednesday • 10–11 AM or 1–2 PM

Registration required (ages 3–5)

Would you walk a tightrope 15 feet off the ground? Jump from one tree branch to another in a single bound? Me neither! But squirrels do! Come learn about these nutty, acrobatic critters.

Home School: Wildlife Folklore

January 8 • Wednesday • 10–11:30 AM for

ages 6–8, 9–11, 12–18 or 1–2:30 PM for

ages 6–8, 9–11 *Registration required*

Boom! Crash! The snapping turtle won't let go of you until thunder rolls, or so the saying goes. Missouri folklore can teach us much about wildlife if we look beyond the myth and get to the heart of the story.

Cooley Lake Squirrel Hunt for Families

Saturday • January 11 • 9 AM–2 PM

Saturday • January 18 • Noon–6 PM

Registration required beginning Dec. 27

(families with children ages 8+)

Have you and your children always wanted to learn how to hunt but were unsure how to get started or where to go? Join Missouri Department of Conservation staff and volunteers for this two part hunting opportunity and give it a try! Firearms and ammunition will be provided.

January 11: Orientation and shoot

January 18: Squirrel Hunt at Cooley Lake and Wild Game Sampler at Burr Oak Woods

Call or email Lisa LaCombe to register or for more information: **816-228-3766** or lacombe@mdc.mo.gov

A Snake Encounter

January 11 • Saturday • 1–2 PM

No registration required (all ages)

Snakes aren't easy to find in winter, but you can still meet them at Burr Oak Woods! We'll examine the fascinating life of this group of reptiles and maybe even watch one consume its prey.

Babes in the Woods:

Hope for Snow

January 14 • Tuesday • 10–11 AM

Registration required

(babes under 36 months)

Just because it is winter doesn't mean you can't play outside. Join Naturalist Kathleen for some outdoor fun. If there is snow, bring your sled! Winter can be a magical time to create special memories with your little one.

Conservation Kids Club: Box City

January 14 • Tuesday • 6:30–8 PM

Registration required (ages 7–13)

Have you ever thought about the city in which you live and wish it could be better? Is nature important to you? How would you build your city so that it conserved natural areas and the wildlife that live there? Participants will have the opportunity to make these decisions and build their own brand new community in this fun-filled, hands-on program.

Squirrel Takes a Holiday

January 18 • Saturday • 1–2 PM

No registration required (all ages)

Would you walk a tightrope 15 feet off



the ground? Jump from one tree branch to another in a single bound? Me neither! But squirrels do! Come learn about these nutty, acrobatic critters.

Rockin' & Readin' Nature Tales

January 25 • Saturday • 11 AM–Noon

February 22 • Saturday • 11 AM–Noon

Walk-in (ages 2+)

Join us for a story hour as we lead you on fantastic nature adventures! We will meet butterflies, birds, mammals and all sorts of magnificent creatures! We will cross rivers, discover mysteries within the forest and fly across the prairies. Our imaginations are the only limits.

Burr Oak Woods Conservation Nature Center

1401 NW Park Road, Blue Springs, MO 64015 • mdc.mo.gov/node/280

Missouri's Returning Residents

January 25 · Saturday · 1–2:30 PM

No registration required (all ages)

Lions, elk and bears, oh my! Some of Missouri's original residents are making their way back home. Black bears and mountain lions are showing up here on their own, and elk have returned with a little help. Join us as we explore these magnificent mammals and find out about some of the other wildlife that has made a comeback in the Show-Me State.

Leaving Tracks

February 1 · Saturday · 1–2:30 PM

No registration required (all ages)

You might be able to identify a deer track, but do you know who has four toes on the front paw and five on the back? Discover what lives at Burr Oak Woods by looking at tracks and searching for other clues!

Naturally from the Heart

February 8 · Saturday · 10–11 AM or 1–2 PM

Registration required (all ages)

Need a Valentine for that special someone? Make your very own from beautiful materials that come from nature. We provide the natural materials, you provide the creativity. Join us at Burr Oak Woods to create something truly unique and special for your Valentine.

Discover Nature Family Exploration Series

Saturday · Feb. 8 – Saturday · Dec. 6

Registration required

(families with children ages 8+)

Make 2014 the year that you Discover Nature with your family! This year, we offer an exciting yearlong series of programs designed specifically with your family in mind! Program Series begins Feb. 8 and will include survival skills, orienteering with map, compass and GPS, dangers in nature, fishing, archery, camping, canoeing, outdoor cooking, squirrel hunting and so much more! Call or email Lisa LaCombe to register or for more information: **816-228-3766** or lisa.lacombe@mdc.mo.gov

Conservation Kids Club: Whooo Knows About Owls?

February 11 · Tuesday · 6:30–8 PM

Registration required (ages 7–13)

Join us to discover the mysterious world



of owls. Owls have incredible adaptations that make them awesome nocturnal hunters. We will learn about these amazing birds, dissect some owl pellets and even go out and call to find out just WHOOOO lives at Burr Oak Woods.

Little Acorns: Backyard Birds

February 12 · Wednesday · 10–11 AM or 1–2 PM

Registration required (ages 3–5)

The snow has blanketed the ground and tree branches are bare. This is one of the best times of the year to see a variety of colorful birds. Come learn about the beautiful birds that visit our feeders and your backyard.

Home School: Ozark Animals

February 12 · Wednesday · 10–11:30 AM

for ages 6–8, 9–11, 12–18 or 1–2:30 PM

for ages 6–8, 9–11 *Registration required*

Southern Missouri is home to one of the most spectacular regions in the country, the Ozarks. There are wild and unique critters that live there, from elk and black bear to hellbenders and tarantulas! Join us as we explore the animals that call Missouri's Ozarks home.

Will Build to Suit: Bat Houses

February 15 · Saturday · Noon–2:30 PM

Registration required (adults & families with children ages 6+)

Flap your way to this fun program to learn about bat conservation and construct a bat house to take home! Join the naturalist and discover the important role bats play in nature.

Babes in the Woods: Pelts, Puppets and Play

February 18 · Tuesday · 10–11 AM

Registration required

(babes under 36 months)

During the winter we turn our thermostats up and add layers of clothes and blankets for warmth. Join Naturalist Kathleen for some indoor fun as we learn about animals that stay active throughout the long winter chill in this hands-on learning experience.

Animal Olympics

February 22 · Saturday · Noon–2 PM

No registration required (all ages)

Can you jump as far as a bullfrog? Do you have the eyes of an owl? As the Winter Olympics are wrapping up, let's unwrap the amazing physical abilities of our wildlife neighbors! Come out and see if you can match up with these gold medal critters.

Maple Sugaring

March 1 · Saturday · 1–3 PM

Registration begins February 1 (all ages)

In our culture of a supermarket in every neighborhood, it is almost magical and spectacular to be able to make something delicious to eat out of some liquid flowing out of a tree. Savor this wonder of nature by learning how to tap trees, collect sap and make delicious syrup from native trees.

Naturescaping Workshop and Native Plant Sale

March 15 · Saturday · 8 AM–12:45 PM

Registration begins February 1 (adults)

Beautify your landscape with some of Missouri's best natural resources, native



plants! Learn how to save time, money and create wildlife habitat with educational sessions on shade-loving plants, butterfly gardening,

stepping stones, wild edibles, treescaping and many more. *The Native Plant Sale is open from 12:45–1:15 PM for workshop participants and 1:15–3:45 PM for the public.*

Lake City Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center

28505 E. Truman Road, Landahl Park, Buckner, MO 64016 • mdc.mo.gov/node/282



Located on 60 acres of forests and fields near Blue Springs, Missouri, six miles north of I-70 on MO 7 and two miles east of MO 7 on Truman Road in Landahl Park. Facilities include an outdoor education center, archery, pistol, rifle and shotgun ranges, including skeet and trap.

HOURS:

May 1–September 15

Wednesday–Sunday: Noon–6 PM

September 16–April 30

Wednesday–Sunday: Noon–4:30 PM

Closed Monday and Tuesday

and all state holidays.

FACILITIES AND FEES: Available for individual or group use. Call for information and possible restrictions.

- Rifle/pistol range: \$3 booth per hour
- Trap/Skeet: \$3 per round per person
- Archery range: \$3 per person per hour

TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:

Programs are free. Call 816-249-3194 to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy.

Introduction to Skeet Shooting

January 11 · Saturday · 9 AM–Noon

Registration required (ages 12+)

Need to improve your wing shooting skills? Why not try skeet shooting? Skeet shooting is a great way to improve your basic shotgun skills and improve your hit ratio on winged game. You may even pick up a new sport at the same time.

NRA Home Firearm Safety

January 12 · Sunday · 9 AM–1 PM

Registration required (adults)

This NRA course covers firearm terminology and the basic rules of safe gun handling. Students learn how to identify, load and unload various firearms, types of ammunition, cleaning and storage. There will be hands-on experience with the most common types of handguns, rifles and shotguns.

Beginning Archery

January 15 · Wednesday · 9–11:30 AM

Registration required (ages 12–17)

Archery has become very popular with young people today. Many competitions are held between school archery teams. Learn more about the fundamentals of shooting archery such as proper equipment, stance, draw technique and follow through.

Family Trap Shooting

January 26 · Sunday · 9–11:30 AM

Registration required (ages 12+)

Trap shooting is a fun shooting sport to experience. This course will cover basic firearm safety, different actions on shotguns, proper shot size, proper firearm fit and shot follow through. Trap is a good way for an upland game hunter to improve their shotgun skills.

Introduction to Shotgun Reloading

February 7 · Friday · 6–8:30 PM

Registration required (adults)

Enjoy shooting clay targets but the cost of shells keeps going up? Reduce the cost of shooting trap or skeet by reloading your own shotgun shells. We will show you the basic equipment needed in reloading, what shotgun hulls to use and the safety precautions when reloading.



Introduction to Air Rifle

February 8 · Saturday · 9–11 AM

Registration required (ages 10–18)

Are your kids interested in shooting but you don't know where or how to start? Air rifle is one of the best and safest ways to start the youth off in the sport of shooting. We will cover the basic safety of a firearm, fundamentals of shooting, youth programs available and answer any questions that might be asked about air rifles. This will be a fun and safe way for kids to learn and enjoy the sport of shooting.

Basic Handgun

February 16 · Sunday · 8–11:30 AM

Registration required (ages 18+)

This is a novice class for people who have little or no experience in handling and shooting a handgun. Topics that will be covered include safety in the home, types of handguns, different parts of the handgun, the variety of calibers, ammunition and marksmanship. Class includes range time.

NRA Basic Rifle–First Step

February 21 · Friday · 5–8:30 PM

Registration required (ages 12+)

NRA First Step is a good way to get a basic understanding of a rifle as well as the basic understanding of marksmanship. Special requirements: Ruger 10/22 cal rifles only.

Holiday Hours

Parma Woods, Lake City and Discovery Center will be closed for these state holidays:

January 1: New Year's Day

January 20: Martin Luther King Jr. Day Observed

February 12: Lincoln's Birthday

February 17: Washington's Birthday Observed

Parma Woods Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center

15900 NW River Road, PO Box 14024, Parkville, MO 64152 • mdc.mo.gov/node/283

CAWS FOR NATURE

We held our position as our targets made their final approach. In all there were four of us holed-up. Our bunker was just a pile of branches and a few pieces of burlap. It seemed as though nearly forty of them made their way closer, still oblivious to our presence.

It all started nearly an hour earlier as we made our way through the forest in the pitch black. Just the day before, our scout had identified a clear cut on the next ridge over. Together we schemed it would be the perfect place for our ambush. We fought our way through the brambles using just enough light to make out the hazards that lay ahead. Nearly a half hour of walking had passed when we finally arrived. On the northern edge of the clear cut a dozer pile offered the perfect cover. We polished it up with some branches and burlap. Here the ground was laid mostly bare, dozer tracks still visible from the recent setback of succession.

At just 22 yards from our hide the stage was set. It was the perfect ploy. We'd placed three decoys on the ground and one sentry hung from a nearby tree branch. We placed a caller near the decoys and positioned ourselves in the hide. Right at daybreak, we broke through the silence. Our caws echoed across the valley below us. Then, off in the distance one of our men descried their presence. The rest of us laid in wait, anticipation building in us all.

I can remember the preceding as one of the best hunts I've ever had for the American Crow. It boiled down to good times spent in nature with good friends. Though the crow isn't one of the most popular animals to hunt, those that pursue them know the benefits of doing so. If you'd like to learn more about crows or crow hunting, attend the Crow Calling and Hunting Seminar at Parma Woods on Feb. 5.

— Nathan Woodland, Parma Woods

Rabbit Hunting Clinic

January 9 • Thursday • 6–9 PM

Registration required (ages 11+)

If you have been suffering from the winter time blues then bring the whole family out for our annual rabbit hunting clinic. Not only is rabbit hunting fun, exciting and challenging, but rabbits also make excellent fare for the table. During a fun and educational seminar we'll explore the details of hunting rabbits, covering rabbit biology, equipment needed, techniques and of course safety. All participants will be invited to attend a mentored hunt on Jan. 11 or 12.

Creating Cartridges: Metallic Reloading Basics

January 16 • Thursday • 6–9 PM

Registration required (ages 11+)

Reloading cartridges is a great way to enjoy your firearms even after the season is over. Whether your goals include squeezing out additional accuracy or shooting more for less money, this class will give you the foundation needed to start making safe cartridges right away.

Enjoying MO Birds in Winter

January 29 • Wednesday • 9 AM–Noon

Registration required (all ages)

Watching wildlife brings enjoyment to millions of people. Join our staff in a morning for the birds. We'll discuss some of the common Missouri birds found in winter. We'll also talk about how to identify birds, how to attract birds and more. We'll have a short field experience as well so dress for the weather.

Crow Calling & Hunting Seminar

February 5 • Wednesday • 6–8 PM

Registration required (all ages)

The American Crow is among the smartest birds alive today. This makes hunting them both challenging and exciting. Viewed as a nuisance in many areas, crow populations grow to devastating numbers without control measures. Hunting can be an effective management tool to keep these populations in check. Attend this short seminar to learn more about crows and crow hunting.



Located in Platte County, Missouri. Go west of downtown Parkville on Route FF to River Road, then west 3 miles to the entrance located just west of I-435. Facilities are available for individual or group use and include a rifle/pistol range, shotgun patterning range, and archery range.

HOURS:

May 1–September 30

Monday and Tuesday: 2 PM–8 PM

Friday–Sunday: 10 AM–4 PM

October 1–April 30

Friday–Tuesday: Noon–4:30 PM

Closed Wednesday and Thursday and all state holidays.

FACILITIES AND FEES:

- Rifle/pistol range: \$3 booth per hour
- Archery range: \$3 per person per hour

TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:

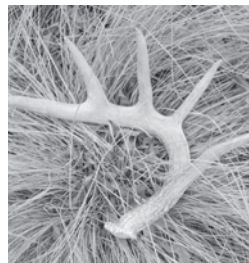
Programs are free. Call 816-891-9941 to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list.

Post-Season Deer Scouting

February 8 • Saturday • 9–11 AM

Registration required (all ages)

Many of the top deer hunters actually scout for deer throughout all the seasons. February is one of the best times to scout for several reasons. Join our staff of experienced deer hunters and scouters to learn a few tips that will help you notch your deer tag next season.



Anita B. Gorman **Discovery Center**

4750 Troost Avenue, Kansas City, MO 64110 • mdc.mo.gov/node/281



Located in Kansas City, Missouri, just east of the Plaza near 47th and Troost. Six hands-on workshops explore Missouri's fish, forest and wildlife with a Lewis and Clark theme. Discovery Center is a showcase for environmental architecture with four acres of native landscaping. Buy books and hunting/fishing permits at the gift shop.

HOURS:

Monday–Friday: 8 AM–5 PM

1st and 3rd Tuesdays: 8 AM–9 PM

1st and 3rd Saturdays: 9 AM–4 PM

Closed all state holidays.

TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:

Programs are free. Call 816-759-7300 to sign up for a program requiring registration.

Wild World of Winter

January 4 · Saturday · 10 AM–2:30 PM

Walk-in (all ages)

Winter might be the best time of year to discover what kind of wildlife is sharing your neighborhood habitat. Learn how to identify tracks in the snow, listen for owl calls and identify winter visitors to your bird feeders. Take home your own tracking t-shirt, one made with recycled materials such as rubber track molds and fabric ink.

Nature Nuts Storytime

January 4 · Saturday · 10–11 AM or 1–2 PM

January 18 · Saturday · 10–11 AM or 1–2 PM

Walk-in (ages 3–8; all welcome)

Join volunteer naturalists for a fantastic journey through forests, streams and other magical places as they read select books. Children will participate in a hands-on nature activity.

The Owls of Forest Park with Mark Glenshaw

January 7 · Tuesday · 7:00 PM

No registration required (adults; ages 14+ are welcome to attend with an adult participant)

Great Horned Owls are beautiful and fascinating members of Missouri's raptor population—come and get acquainted! Amateur naturalist Mark Glenshaw will regale us with his stories and videos of their feeding, hunting, courtship and nesting behaviors, gleaned from eight years of dedicated study of owl families in St. Louis.

Scout Program

January 7 · Tuesday · Evening

February 4 · Tuesday · Evening

Registration required (scouts)

Scout leaders, are you lacking expertise or equipment to complete conservation badges? Bring your troop to Discovery Center. Education Specialist staff will provide a program helping your Scouts with rank achievement. All Missouri Scout groups of 10-24 participants are welcome to schedule a free program. Please contact Wendy Parrett at (816) 759-7305 ext. 1141 or Wendy.Parrett@mdc.mo.gov to schedule an evening program on the first Tuesday evening of the month.

Gardening for Wildlife

January 18 · Saturday · 10 AM–2:30 PM

Walk-in (all ages)

It is important to pick a plant that is right for the place you intend to plant it. Come and learn more about designing a butterfly garden. Have fun making seed balls you can plant at home, using seeds from native Missouri plants. Take home a native wildflower seedling to use in starting your personal garden design!



PHOTO: TRINA WASH

Brush Creek: Tale of Two Cities

January 21 · Tuesday · 7 PM

No registration required

(adults; ages 14+ are welcome to attend with an adult participant)

Brush Creek has a unique reputation in this town. The stream's location at the



cultural heart of the city has long served as portal to some of the best aspects of urban life. At other times the creek has shed light on some of

the most perplexing and complicated problems that face urban living. Join Don Wilkison of the U.S. Geological Survey tonight as we hear some of the unique stories this urban stream has to tell and discover why Brush Creek will likely remain a sentinel to both the past and future of our urban life for many years to come.

Nature Nuts Storytime

February 1 · Saturday · 10–11 AM or 1–2 PM

February 15 · Saturday · 10–11 AM or 1–2 PM

Walk-in (ages 3–8; all welcome)

Join volunteer naturalists for a fantastic journey through forests, streams and other magical places as they read select books. Children will participate in a hands-on nature activity.

February Foragers

February 1 · Saturday · 10 AM–2:30 PM

Walk-in (all ages)

February is a short month, but it seems quite long to foraging birds searching for seeds and nuts in short supply this time of year. Do them and yourself a favor by building a simple suet feeder to take home. Maintaining a birdfeeder out your window is an entertaining and easy way to get to know some of our winter companions. We will build and stock our new feeders and learn some tricks to keep them coming back for more.

Anita B. Gorman **Discovery Center**

4750 Troost Avenue, Kansas City, MO 64110 • mdc.mo.gov/node/281

Maple Sugaring: Special Event

February 15 · Saturday · 10 AM–2:30 PM
Walk-in (all ages)

Missouri has a rich and tasty history regarding this forest resource – homemade maple syrup. As winter loses its grip on the land, the trees begin



to awaken. Sap from deep in the roots starts to make its way to the treetops. February is prime time for tapping maple trees to collect the sweet bounty within. We will demonstrate how to choose the right tree,

collect the raw sap and use equipment required to boil sap into maple syrup or sugar. Join us on the hour at 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 12 noon, 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. and start your own sugaring tradition.

Musical Maples

February 15 · Saturday · 1:30 PM

Walk-in (ages 6+)

You have got to be kidding! \$300 per board foot for a select piece of Maple! Who would pay such an outrageous price for a piece of a common tree no bigger than a cutting board? Michael Fraser and Tenley Hansen will provide the answers to these questions and more during a musical journey that will leave you with a lasting impression of the value of the maple tree.

Brush Creek: Yesterday, Today and the Future

February 18 · Tuesday · 7 PM

No registration required (adults; ages 14+ welcome with an adult participant)

Many know Brush Creek as a body of water snaking its way through midtown Kansas City en route to the Blue River. However, the creek has played a significant role in the development of our city. Join us as Tom Hines discusses the history of Brush Creek. Tom's expertise stems from 26 years of experience working on Brush Creek with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, KC Public Works and other organizations. From Civil War battles to recent floods, we'll learn about Brush Creek's place in history as well as what the future holds for this unique waterway.

Signs Of Spring

March 1 · Saturday · 10 AM–2:30 PM

Walk-in (all ages)

With the arrival of March, we anticipate and seek signs of spring. Join us as we explore the Discovery Center's grounds and uncover what plants and animals are emerging as the weather warms. We will create a piece of art that uses some of the elements we find. Hikes will start every hour on the hour.

Introduction To Backpacking

March 1 · Saturday · 10 AM–2 PM

(Prep Session)

March 15 & 16 · Saturday and Sunday
(Backpacking Trip)

Registration required (adults)

We are planning an overnight backpacking trip in Missouri and you are invited. Learn what gear, skills and physical abilities are needed to be a part of this experience. First timers are welcome to join the trip. If you don't have the gear we will provide equipment to use. Attending the March prep session is mandatory to go on the overnight trip.

A river runs past us, exploring Brush Creek

From fatal floods to boat races, Brush Creek is an integral part of Kansas City. Over the years it has gone from an unregulated tributary of the Blue River to modified river walk and a scenic location for art events and rubber duck races. The creek lends natural atmosphere to the Country Club Plaza.

Join us the third Tuesday evening of January, February and March as we hear from the people who know the creek best. We will learn about water quality, the creek's history, and what may lie ahead for the waterway and those who live around it. Mark your calendars for Jan. 21, Feb. 18 and March 18.



Musicians Mike Fraser and Tenley Hansen

The maple tree goes with music and syrup

"A sap-run is the sweet goodbye of winter. It is the fruit of the equal marriage of the sun and frost."

– John Burroughs, *Signs and Seasons*, 1886

In February, as the days lengthen into spring, temperatures drop below freezing at night and warm above freezing during the day, causing sap within trees to run. The roots pump sap into the branches. This sap has a high concentration of sugar. However, tasted directly from the maple tree, there is just a hint of sweetness. This watery liquid must be boiled down to evaporate off much of the water until it reaches the familiar thick, brown-colored syrup.

Come to the Gorman Discovery Center on Feb. 15 to learn how to make your own maple syrup. Find out how big the tree must be, how to make a tap hole and how to collect sap. You, too, can enjoy sweet natural maple syrup. Participate in a taste test to see if you can tell the difference between real maple syrup and the "maple" flavored syrup often sold in stores. At 1:30 p.m. Kansas City musicians Michael Fraser and Tenley Hansen will present Musical Maples on mandolin, violin and guitar.



WOMEN'S SPRING WORKSHOP

**Friday - Sunday
April 25-27, 2014**

**WOMEN'S
WEEKEND RETREAT**

**Registration Required
For more information**

CONTACT
Lisa LaCombe
at 816-655-6263 x232
or
lisa.lacombe@mdc.mo.gov

The Discover Nature Women's Spring Workshop provides a safe and friendly environment where women experience hands-on Outdoor Skills Training, such as archery, canoeing, outdoor cooking, GPS or Map and Compass and much more by a team of outdoor skills professionals. Courses will be held at the Lake Doniphan Conference and Retreat Center, Excelsior Spring, MO.

Burr Oak Woods Photography Contest

Did you capture something beautiful at Burr Oak Woods this year? Each year our visitors take thousands of wonderful photographs highlighting the beauty and diversity of our site. If you have a photo you'd like to share, Burr Oak Woods is hosting its annual photography competition and would like to include you! Please visit www.mdc.mo.gov/node/280 or contact Burr Oak Woods for details. Submissions are due Friday, Feb. 28. Good luck!

Wildlife in Winter

*Winter is coming, so what do I do?
I am a living organism that depends on cues
Hunger, thirst, cold and heat are only a few
That will cause me to behave and make my moves*

*Where do I go to keep myself warm?
A place where I can be safe from any harm
A tree, a log, a burrow or a cave
Down south, in the mud or up throughout the day*

*What special structures help me to survive in my home?
Thick fur, feather wings, sharp beak or a dome
Some gills, large claws, deep roots or some bark
Keen sense of smell, hearing or night vision for seeing in the dark*

*How do I tolerate winter in the "Show Me State"?
There are many survival traits to help us throughout the term
Turning into a bugle or laying eggs before I terminate
Storing fat to insulate or snuggling up to keep warm*

*Winter is coming, but first there is fall
The year is full of changes, but that is not all
With cues, specialized structures and survival traits, too
We all have something special to help us survive, what about you?*

—Rebecca Rodriguez, Education Specialist

Volunteer Corner

Volunteers are an important asset to the Missouri Department of Conservation and help provide outstanding customer service. We would like to recognize the following volunteers for their unselfish service in 2013:

BURR OAK WOODS

100 hours: Trissa Hutcheson, Nick Mandacina, Susan Smith
200 hours: Mikaela Jennings, Lucy Quinn, Richard Webster
400 hours: Jean Jones
750 hours: Lowell Burns, Jennifer Chapin, Theresa Enderle
1000 hours: John Rittel
1500 hours: Sharon Hutcheson, Georgia Saunders
2000 hours: Bill Cox
2500 hours: Phyllis Boyd
3000 hours: Judy Oetting

LAKE CITY SHOOTING RANGE

100 hours: David Wyatt, Gary Combs, Wes Borchers, Dave Colard, Victor Mistele, James (Matt) Wheaton, Allan Morris
250 hours: Jael Dawson, Richard Galvin, Adam Bell, Robert (Bob) Rubin
500 hours: Bob Fitts
600 hours: Tom Van Biber
900 hours: William (Al) Dobyns, Richard Dale

DISCOVERY CENTER

100 hours: Susan Butler, Harris Gbomina, Paul McCarty
300 hours: Eric Petersen
400 hours: Colleen Murbach
500 hours: Alan Golubski
750 hours: Annette Howk
2000 hours: Fran Snow

PARMA WOODS SHOOTING RANGE

100 hours: Ron Bower, Steve Busch, Patrick Liposhack
300 hours: John Kennedy
1500 hours: Alan Bahl